

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9, 11, and 33 as follows:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a first substrate having thereon a pixel electrode and an active element;

a second substrate having thereon an opposed electrode;

a liquid crystal layer interposed between said first and second substrates with said pixel and opposed electrodes facing each other,

a first orientation control element locally provided near an edge of the pixel electrode on said first substrate and giving an orientation regulating force to liquid crystal molecules near the edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate, the orientation regulating force counteracting an orientation regulating force given by the edge of said pixel electrode to said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer, so that said liquid crystal molecules including those near said edge are oriented in a substantially the same direction, when difference in orientation direction among the liquid crystal molecules adjacent to each other near said edge is caused by the orientation regulating force given to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer by said edge of said pixel electrode when voltage is being applied between said pixel and opposed electrodes; and

a second orientation control element giving an orientation regulating force that orients the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer in a predetermined direction different from the directions of the orientation regulating force given by the edge of the pixel electrode to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer and the orientation regulating force given by said first orientation control element.

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, wherein said first orientation control element is constituted by a plurality of fine slits formed locally in said pixel electrode in an oblique direction relative to an extending direction of said edge or a plurality of fine protrusions formed locally on said pixel electrode in an oblique direction relative to the extending direction of said edge, and said fine slits or said fine protrusions locally give to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer an orientation regulating force in a direction parallel to said fine slits or said fine protrusions.

10. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein at least a part of said fine slits or said fine protrusions are different in shape and/or spaced interval of arrangement from each other.

11. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, wherein said first orientation control element is a hollow formed in a part other than said pixel electrode.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 8, wherein a dielectric anisotropy of said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer is negative.

13-32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal orientation method of liquid crystal molecules of a liquid crystal layer in a liquid crystal display device comprising a first substrate having thereon a pixel electrode and an active element, a second substrate having thereon an opposed electrode, and said liquid crystal layer interposed between said first and second substrates with said electrodes facing each other, said method comprising the steps of:

giving, by an orientation control element locally provided near an edge of said first substrate, a first orientation regulating force to said liquid crystal molecules near an edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate in a direction parallel to the orientation control element in a direction parallel to the orientation control element to counteract a second orientation regulating force given by the edge of said pixel electrode to said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer, so that said liquid crystal molecules including those near said edge are oriented in substantially the same direction, when difference in orientation direction among said liquid crystal molecules adjacent to each other near said edge is caused by said orientation regulating force given to said liquid crystal molecules of

~~said liquid crystal layer due to said edge of said pixel electrode when a voltage is being~~
applied between said pixel and opposed electrodes; and

giving ~~ana~~ a third orientation regulating force that orients the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer in a predetermined direction different from the directions of ~~the~~ said second orientation regulating force ~~given by said edge of said pixel electrode to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer and the~~ said first orientation regulating force ~~given to said liquid crystal molecules near the edge of said pixel electrode.~~